

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 7-8, 10, 12-17, 24-25, 27, 29, 32-42, 46-48, 50-58, 59-61, 64-72, and 75-80 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PLANTE (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0208602) in view of POLLACK et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0007885); rejects claims 6, 9, 19-21, 26 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PLANTE in view of POLLACK et al. and further in view of NIIDA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,123,621); rejects claims 18, 22, 31, 62 and 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PLANTE in view of POLLACK et al. and further in view of BENSAOU et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,934,297); rejects claims 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PLANTE in view of POLLACK et al. and further in view of SAYYAH et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,142,348); and indicates that claims 11, 23, 28, 49 and 63 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejections are respectfully traversed.¹

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 6-8, 10, 12, 14-18, 23-24, 26-27, 29, 31-32, 34, 37-38, 40-42, 46, 48, 50-52 and 59 and cancels claims 2, 9, 11, 22, 25, 28, 47, 49, 62-63 and 68-80 to improve form.

In accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action, Applicant's have amended claim 1 to incorporate the features previously recited in claims 2, 9 and

¹ As Applicant's claim amendments with respect to the Examiner's rejections overcome the rejections, Applicant's silence as to certain assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or that such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to dispute these assertions/requirements in the future.

I have amended claim 23 to incorporate the features previously recited in claims 1, 2, and 22, have amended claim 24 to incorporate the features previously recited in claims 25 and 28, have amended claim 46 to incorporate the features previously recited in claims 47 and 49, and have amended claim 59 to incorporate the features previously recited in claims 62 and 63. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 23, 24, 46 and 59 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-267 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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